THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government's subscription to magazines and newspapers published in India and abroad depends on requirements of our Missions, which varies from time to time. The question of subscription to different magazines and newspapers is reviewed periodically.

Review of INDO-US Ties

4658. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement by a foreign Minister which appeared in the Patriot dated the 4th July, 1992, New Delhi under the heading 'India Reviewing Ties with U.S.' stated that he would like India and other non-aligned countries to play their due role in the changed circumstances; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India believes that Non-alignment continues to be relevant in the changing international situation today, and that the Non-alignment Movement has an important role to play in world affairs. In this context of India's commitment to NAM, India is working to further strengthen India-US relations.

Containment of Chernobyl

4659. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chernobyl has not been contained so far and it poses a great danger to the entire world as reported in Economic Times of 5th July, 1992; and

(b) whether there has been any call for containment of the effects of Chernobyl incident; if so; what has been Government of India's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No Sir. According to the latest information available with us, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Power has denied the Japanese Newspaper report that the sarcophagus around the destroyed Chernobyl — 4 unit has been breached. They have said that the containment of the Chernobyl-4 is in normal condition.

Since the damaged reactor components within the containment are sources of heat, weakening of the containment over long periods cannot be ruled out. To guard against such a possibility, the Ukranian Government is planning to build an 'Ecologically Safe System' around the present containment and has announced a contest for proposals of such a system.

(b) India is not participating in the contest, being planned by the Ukranian Government.

Arrest of Indians in UAE

4660. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indians have been arrested in the UAE for organising and participating in a drama competition and if so, the deatils thereof; and

(b) if so, the efforts initiated by Government for the release of the Indians and the present state of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Towards the end of May 1992, the Kerala Arts Lovers Association (KALA), based in Sharjah held a number of functions at the premises of Indian Association, Sharjah. On the 28th of May a drama was staged by the Surya Arts Society, Sharjah which was viewed as blasphemous to Islam and Christianity by the local authorities. Eleven Indian nationals were arrested and the premises of the Indian Association, Sharjah were locked and sealed by the local authorities.

(b) Every effort has been, and is being made at the diplomatic level to secure the release of the detainees. Since the matter is with the court, our ambassador has approached the Ruler of Sharjah for clemency.

As a result of the demarche made by our missions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai., the President of the Association was released on acquittal and the treasurer on bail. Out of the 9 persons still under detention, Shri Gogi Francis was released on 20th July and re-arrested on July 22, 1992. The next hearing is scheduled for 9th September, 1992. The premises of the Association have been reopened.

Taking out of Children from the Country

4661. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases in which young children of both sexes were taken out of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that criminal groups are largely responsible for this evil; and

(c) what steps have been taken to root out this evil and to check the foreigners to exploit poor citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

External Publicity

4662. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total amount spent on external publicity during the last three years; and

(b) the maner in which it has been spent during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Actual expenditure on External Publicity during the last three years:

1989-90	Rs. 3.88 crores
1990-91	Rs. 3.06 crores
1991-92	Rs. 4.01 crores.

(b) The above expenditure was incurred on production of periodicals and pamphlets, books for libraries and presentation to foreign dignitaries, wireless and cables subscription to news agencies, press delegations, production of T.V. and documentary films, audio/video publicity etc.

India's Assistance in Inspection of Iraq's Nuclear Weapons

4663. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has agreed to UN Inspection Team to enter its Agriculture Ministry building which it was suspected to contain details of the Iraq's nuclear weapons and missile projects;